



AMERICAN LANDS COUNCIL

ACCESS - HEALTH - PRODUCTIVITY

Public Policy Statement

Ratified by unanimous consent Oct 9, 2014 at ALC Multi-State Workshop
Salt Lake City, UT and Oct 20, 2014 by American Lands Council Board of Directors.

1. **WE URGE THE TIMELY AND ORDERLY TRANSFER OF FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS TO WILLING STATES FOR LOCAL CONTROL THAT WILL PROVIDE BETTER PUBLIC ACCESS, BETTER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, AND BETTER ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY;**
2. **WE SUPPORT EXCLUDING EXISTING NATIONAL PARKS, CONGRESSIONALLY DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS, INDIAN RESERVATIONS, AND MILITARY INSTALLATIONS FROM THE TRANSFER; AND**
3. **WE SUPPORT EQUIPPING FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES WITH RESOURCES NECESSARY TO PLAN FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO STATE-BASED OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF THE TRANSFERRED PUBLIC LANDS; AND**
4. **WE URGE MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR THESE LANDS THAT WILL:**
 - i. **IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS:** Protect public access, rights of way, and multiple-uses on public lands for all people including sportsmen, tourists, recreational users, subsistence and sustenance activities, and emergency access; and
 - ii. **IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:** Reduce catastrophic wildfire fuel loads that threaten communities, infrastructure, watersheds, critical wildlife habitat, and our environment. Facilitate restoration of healthy forests, range lands, and waterways; and
 - iii. **IMPROVE ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY:** Secure jobs and economic growth through responsible natural resource stewardship and use including tourism and recreational opportunities; and
 - iv. **RETAIN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS:** Federal public lands shall become state public lands to be managed in accordance with state and local plans; and
 - v. **IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF WILDFIRE CONTROL:** Provide state, local, and tribal government with adequate wildfire prevention and control resources and develop interstate/interagency cooperative agreements necessary to combat wildfires effectively; and
 - vi. **INCREASE LOCAL INVOLVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY:** Ensure state-based public land management activities are consistent with local government plans, policies, and objectives; and
 - vii. **PROTECT USE RIGHTS:** Protect all valid existing rights and multiple uses, and enhance the viability of compatible, land-based livelihoods; and
 - viii. **PRESERVE CUSTOMS & CULTURE:** Preserve and protect important wild, scenic, cultural and economic resources; and
 - ix. **INCORPORATE FEDERAL AGENCY EXPERTISE:** Seek to utilize federal expertise and research through employment and/or cooperative agreements; and
 - x. **GENERATE SELF-SUPPORTING FINANCE:** Foster compatible economic productivity to support essential government services such as local roads, utilities, emergency services, public health and safety, education, justice, and other civic functions while reducing tax burdens on citizens nationally and offsetting federal ~~Payment~~ in Lieu of Taxes and Secure Rural Schools funds.